

clarke college COURIER

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Who should you choose? What students should look for this January

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arts etc.



"Wicked" star comes to Clarke

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extras



Can you guess which Clarke professor this is?

page 8

weather



High: 30
Low: 28



A student confronts the boar's head at one of Clarke's Olde English Christmas dinners.

Clarke Christmas traditions

natalie duetmeyer
assistant editor

With the holiday season upon us, many Clarke students are preparing for finals week and making plans to go home to be with family. After all, Christmas is a time for tradition and togetherness. But before you pack your bags and hit the road, take some time to explore some of the past and present Christmas rituals that are part of our own Clarke family tree.

This year, Clarke will keep tradition and once again host its annual Christmas dinner in the main dining room before students leave for break. In years past, however, this meal consisted of a little more than

food and conversation. In fact, it included a pig's head on a platter! The Clarke Dining Room became a mead hall for the recreation of an Olde English dinner, celebrating customs and foods of twelfth century England. This event, which took place every three years, began in 1928 as a result of a history department research project. The last Olde English dinner was in 2004.

Amy Golm, BVM, Clarke liturgist, was a Clarke student who participated in the Christmas traditions of old. "I recall how festive it all was," she said. "The whole event, from the wine and cheese before dinner to being with friends to going to mid-

night mass. It was just a neat time...something special."

After the Christmas dinner it was standard to hold a candle lighting ceremony. This ceremony, which began in 1934, was held in various locations on campus over the years including Mary Frances Clarke Hall, Terence Donaghoe Hall, Alumnae Lecture Hall, and Sacred Heart Chapel.

A Courier issue from the 1950s, when Clarke was an all-girls school noted that each girl filed into the darkened auditorium with a lighted candle. The procession was followed by an onstage nativity portrayal with religious hymns. The candle

lighting ceremony has since been lost to Clarke tradition due to lack of attendance.

Another Clarke Christmas tradition that has been lost is mitten parties. During these parties, Clarke students dressed like elves and entertained children from the Dubuque area. Fruits, nuts and hot chocolate were served in the cafeteria. Mittens were hung from a real Christmas tree that Clarke students had personally chosen from the campus grounds and carried in. Children were given candy-stuffed mittens at the end of the party.

continued on back page

Stressed?

How to make it through finals week

sarah bradford
editor

Finals are here—which means so is stress. But don't worry, students: The director of Clarke's Counseling Center, Lorie Murphy-Freebolin, says there is a way to handle all of that test anxiety.

"Students need to recognize when their stress level is getting too high, and then they should take care of themselves," Murphy-Freebolin said. "They need to take study breaks and reward themselves for their hard work."

One way Murphy-Freebolin says students can reward themselves is with a "fun-box." She said students should set aside things they enjoy and bring them out when they are feeling stressed. Some things that might be in a fun box are games like mad gab, coloring books, stress balls, and anything else that people enjoy.

"I use this with my own kids and it works like a charm," she said. "It is a good way to give the brain a break and yourself a pat on the back."

Rewarding yourself is just half of managing

"A positive outlook is, in itself, a great stress reducer."

stress. Students also need to find out what type of learner they are so they study the right way. The Counseling Center, along with Myra Benzer in the Learning Center, can help students find out if they are visual, auditory or kinesthetic learners.

"Once students know what type of learner they are, they can develop study strategies that work

for them," Murphy-Freebolin said. "Cramming doesn't work for anyone. That is the most important. Don't cram."

Students should also pace themselves and take study breaks.

"When I study, I study in one-hour increments and then take a 10 minute break," senior education major Emily Meyer said. "This has worked best for me and I think freshmen should try it too."

Murphy-Freebolin said learning to develop better study habits such as reviewing each day's class notes and keeping up with the reading are big stress reducers. Then students will not need to worry about their exams too much, because they will be doing more reviewing than actual studying.

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APRIL 20, 2007

OPINION

I'll be home for Christmas...

For some students, it's a long, hard road home

sarah neece
staff writer

Think packing up a suitcase and remembering to unplug your refrigerator before leaving for Christmas break is stressful? Try getting to the airport after most of your friends have gone home, checking in your luggage, sitting at the airport for at least six hours due to layovers, making it to your connecting flight, getting home late at night, and all because you live far from home.

Each year Clarke enrolls many out-of-state students from all over the country. Students from California, Arkansas, Florida, and even Puerto Rico, get to endure the hardships of being so far from home.

Most students who live farther than 10 hours away do not get the luxury of going home for

Thanksgiving because of bad road conditions or expensive airfares. However, when it comes to getting home for Christmas, they will do whatever it takes, even if it means connecting to many different airports and sitting in lounges for hours.

Becca Bradford as well as Tito Burgos and Irving Duran are a few

of the students who spend the days following finals jumping from plane to plane, trying to make it home for the holidays.

Tito, a senior kinesiology major, from Trujillo Alto, Puerto Rico, and Irving, a senior majoring in computer information systems from San Juan, Puerto Rico, have found that

when you are so far away, friends ultimately become the only family you have, making Clarke your home away from home.

"One of the things that helps me

"Keep in mind there are some students who go four or five months without even a hug from family members"

get used to being away from home are my native friends who help me to forget about how far away I am from home," said Irving.

Becca, a sophomore psychology major from Big Bear, Calif., has spent up to eight hours at a time in airports due to layovers. Even though a ticket is expensive and

there is a lot of time spent in the airport, to drive could take up to 28 hours, and that's if weather in the Rockies permits.

Justin Haas, a freshmen majoring in history, from Cabot, Ark., has also gotten used to being away from home. Being 10 hours away makes it hard to travel on short vacation holidays.

"Being part of the baseball team makes it easier. I'm never by myself, and there are guys here farther away from home than I am. It makes going home that much more special," said Justin.

Sadly, there are some students who don't get to travel home for Thanksgiving or Christmas. Gordon Ochoa, a freshman business major,

from Lehigh Acres, Flo., will be staying in Iowa during the winter break. "I'm a little used to it," he says. "I like being away from home; it's different and nice. It gets a little lonely at times, but I have my friends and teammates to hang out with," said Gordon.

So when your grandmas and grandpas are asking you about school for the tenth time, or when your little old aunt pinches you on the cheek, or when your little brother wants to go play catch out back, keep in mind that there are some students who go four or five months without even a hug from family members.

This is the season, and one of the few chances we get during the school year, to share hugs and memories with the ones we love.

Could Clarke become smoke-free?

phillip flores
staff writer

A Clarke student takes a smoking break outside.

Today the rules about smoking on campus are changing rapidly. According to a 2002 Harvard University study, 25 percent of U.S. colleges had banned smoking in dormitories and the number was rising.

Today, a majority of schools are forcing students outside to a designated smoking area that is a certain distance from campus buildings.

According to the Clarke student handbook, all campus buildings are smoke-free and tobacco-free. Smoking is prohibited within 25 feet of any campus building and where no-smoking signs are posted.

"It does not really matter how far away the smokers are," said sophomore psychology major Becca Bradford, "The smell still travels through my win-

dow and into my room on the second floor of Mary Jo."

Even though most Clarke students know about the distance rule for smoking outside, there is often no one around to enforce it on a regular basis.

Director of Student Life Cammie Dean said "I think that we all, including staff and security, bear a responsibility to enforce policy when safety and health are the issues."

Although smoking is being banned on many campuses throughout the nation, it doesn't look like this is in Clarke's near future.

While it does appear to be an issue for some students, it also seems that many smokers are willing to cooperate in making their habit more bearable for the individuals around them.

Clarke sophomore computer information systems major Josh Glider said that if there were a designated area for smokers to go to, he would be willing to move to the new location.

"When we live in a community, we are all responsible, in some ways, for the comfort and safety of our neighbors," said Dean.

Stress, continued from front page

"Students should try not to get too worked up over a test," she said. "They could help themselves to look at it positively by remembering that they are part of

the one percent of the population in the world that is lucky enough to take finals for a college education. A positive outlook is, in itself, a great stress reducer."

From the editor...

I want to take a moment to thank the entire Courier staff for all of their hard work. Everyone of you should be proud of your contributions to the paper this semester. I have had a great time with you all. Also, I would like to thank the Clarke community for its support. I will always remember my experiences at Clarke, especially my four years working on the Courier. Thanks again for everything; have a great Christmas break.

- Sarah Bradford ☺

clarke courier

Happy Holidays!

clarke college COURIER

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December 6

Thos

natalie deutmeyer
assistant editor

Every year well
Thanksgiving, the
Christmas
movies start showing up.
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classic like "It's A Wonder
And then there are those C
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soon-to-be downgraded c
that leave you wondering
directors must have been
when they made them.

This year's selection see
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this holiday season is "Fred
film about Nicholas (or San
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Vaughn) who grows up
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on most critics' Web sites
you're in the mood for a com

Clarke

kim brooks
campus life editor

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December 6, 2007

Those Christmas Movie Classics

natalie deutmeyer
assistant editor

Every year well before Thanksgiving, the previews for Christmas-themed movies start showing up. If you're lucky, you get a film that becomes a classic like "It's A Wonderful Life." And then there are those Christmas movies featuring washed out or soon-to-be downgraded celebrities that leave you wondering what the directors must have been thinking when they made them.

This year's selection seems a bit sparse, at least for the adult theatergoer. One movie getting attention this holiday season is "Fred Claus," a film about Nicholas (or Santa) Claus' younger brother Fred (Vince Vaughn) who grows up to be the polar opposite of his saintly sibling: a money-hungry squabbler who finds himself in jail for his dirty dealings. Nicholas agrees to bail his brother out on the condition that he come to the North Pole and work off his debt making toys. The trouble is that Fred is not exactly elf material, and he could end up jeopardizing the fast-approaching Christmas season.

This movie's cast has some other big names in it: Kevin Spacey, Kathy Bates, and even Ludacris. Like most holiday comedies of this nature, "Fred Claus" has not left critics raving. It averaged a meager two stars on most critics' Web sites. But if you're in the mood for a comical fes-

tive flick this month, or just want to see Vince Vaughn as an elf, then "Fred Claus" may be one to check out. The movie premiered on Nov. 9 and is currently showing in theaters.

Other movies to check out on the big screen this month include "This Christmas," a comedy about a family reuniting for the holidays for the first time in years. On Dec. 12, "The Perfect Holiday" premieres in theaters, a flick starring Gabrielle Union as a divorced mother who falls for the man playing Santa at the mall.

To some college students, seeing a Christmas movie in the theater just doesn't have the same spirit as cozying up on the couch and watching an older one.

Ben Resnick, a senior graphic design major, said "The classics are the older ones. I think that I'd dread going to a new Christmas movie because it's so commercialized; it doesn't have the same spirit."

If none of the 2007 Christmas movie releases spark your interest or you'd rather not spend \$8 on a one-and-a-half star movie, your best bet is to stick with one of widely recognized classics. Here are some suggestions:

Christmas Classic #1 "A Christmas Story"

Just about every web search for "top Christmas movies" ranks this one at

the very top. Since its release in 1983, this classic written by Jean Shepherd has become a holiday standard on channels like TBS, so it's hard to miss it.

What it's about: A young boy named Ralphie growing up in the 1940s dreams of owning a Red Ryder BB gun. He sets out to convince everyone this is the perfect Christmas gift by putting a Red Ryder advertisement in his mother's magazine, lying about the spotting of a dangerous animal in the neighborhood, and asking Santa at the department store.

Classic Factor: The leg lamp!

Christmas Classic #2 "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation"

If you've seen any of the National Lampoon vacation movies featuring the Griswold family, you know how dysfunctional any endeavor turns out for them.

What it's about: Clark Griswold (Chevy Chase) tries to create "the most fun-filled old-fashioned family



Christmas" by inviting all the family and stapling 25,000 light bulbs to the house. Clark becomes obsessed with making everything go perfectly during the holiday season, but everything takes a bad turn when uninvited guests cousin Eddie and his family show up in a trashy motor home. When Clark doesn't receive the Christmas bonus he was expecting from his boss, things get even crazier.

Classic Factor: Cousin Eddie emptying a portable toilet while wearing a bathrobe.

Christmas Classic #3 "Home Alone"

This classic starring Macaulay Culkin was the number-one grossing movie of 1990 and made Culkin forever synonymous with that famous hands-on-face scream. "Home Alone" is a family film that both kids and adults can enjoy.

What it's about: Eight-year-old Kevin McCallister is accidentally left behind when his family rushes off on a Christmas



vacation to France. He's excited to have the house to himself for a while until he discovers two burglars named Harry and Marv are trying to break in and steal valuables. Kevin devises all sorts of traps and systems for keeping his house safe and realizes the only thing he wants for Christmas is his family back.

Classic Factor: "Keep the change, you filthy animal."

Other holiday films to check out:

- "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" (1966)
- "Elf" (2003)
- "Bad Santa" (2003)
- "The Nightmare before Christmas" (1993)
- "It's a Wonderful Life" (1946)
- "The Family Stone" (2005)

Clarke student travels to Israel over break

kim brooks
campus life editor

Most college students start counting down the days till Christmas so they can finally go home. Whether "home" is here in Iowa, in another state, or even in another country, students jump at the chance to finally leave campus for an extended period of time. One Clarke student is an exception to this generalization.

Ilene Morley, a sophomore business major here at Clarke, will be spending her break in Israel, along with her mother and younger brother. They will be gone from Dec. 21 through Jan. 5. This trip will mark the third time her family has gone to Israel to visit her grandparents, aunts and cousins on her mother's side.

"Traveling to Israel is like going home for my mom," Ilene said. "That's why she has dual-citizenship. Now that I'm of age, I could have dual-citizenship as well if I wanted it."

Ilene's relatives don't live too close to all the fighting that goes on near the Gaza Strip. They live about 35 miles east of it all.

"It's not like you can hear guns and bombs going off when you walk out the door," she said.

There aren't too many concerns her family has about going overseas. On her first trip, the only thing that bothered her was the increased fighting between the Israelis and the Palestinians because it was right after

"The atmosphere and environment over there is quite different than what one would imagine"

9/11. "There will always be fighting over there," she said. Her relatives in Israel have never been harmed. They witness the war on the news all the time and that's the extent of their exposure.

Ilene said, "The atmosphere and environment over there is quite different than what one would imagine." Since the major religion is Judaism, women aren't required to wear veils. Also, people don't dress differently than we do over here in the states. The exception is Hasidic

Jews who dress in a traditional style.

"They can tell we're not from there," Ilene said. "I have a darker complexion because my mom is white and my dad is half Native American and half Hispanic. I can be mistaken for Muslim, but not necessarily an American."

But just because the Israelis might look at her family in a different way, doesn't mean they treat them differently.

One of the main problems when traveling to a foreign country is the language barrier. In Israel they speak Hebrew. Ilene says she knows a few Hebrew words and phrases and can count to ten. Oddly enough, the Hebrew word for "hello," "good-bye" and "peace" is the same word for all three.

Another complication for Ilene is the electric outlets. "They have different outlets so I can't bring my hair dryer or straightener," she said.

Ilene says there are plenty of people who live near her grandparents who are her age, but she doesn't hang out with them.

"They don't speak English and it gives me a headache trying to communicate with them," she said.

Something that really threw Ilene and her family for a loop was when they first went to a mall in Israel and saw Israeli soldiers walking around in full uniform carrying M-16s.

Another surprise was when she went shopping for a pair of jeans and the price tag said "120." She couldn't believe that they were asking that much for just one pair!

"I didn't know the translation of the currency," she said.

The monetary unit Israel uses is called the Sheqel. About 50 Sheqels equals \$12.50 in American dollars. "Some places over there do accept American money, but usually my grandparents just pay for everything," Ilene said.

So the next time you drive an hour or so to go home, keep in mind what "going home" might mean for someone else.



Ilene Morley standing in front of the McDonald's spelled in Hebrew in Israel.

December 6, 2007

GET READY

kim brooks
campus life editor

Democrats	Iraq	Health Care	Education	Environment	Women's Rights
Sen. Joe Biden (www.joebiden.com)	Bring our troops home without leaving chaos behind. The idea is to maintain a unified Iraq by federalizing Iraq and giving Kurds, Shiites and Sunnis breathing room in their own regions.	Make health insurance available to all uninsured children and adults.	Start a 16-year plan where all kids have two years of pre-school and are able to afford at least two years of higher education. Support and retain teachers by improving pay and by fund mentoring programs. Reduce class sizes by hiring more teachers.	Leading the effort to pass the Global Warming Pollution Reduction Act. Increase number of vehicles that use ethanol and alternative fuels.	Protect a woman's right to choose.
Sen. Hillary Clinton (www.hillaryclinton.com)	Bring our troops home, work to bring stability to the region, and replace military force with a new diplomatic initiative to engage countries around the world in securing Iraq's future.	Make it affordable and available to everyone.	Attract more teachers and pay them like professionals. Increase access to early education (preschool).	Reduce electricity consumption. Fund investments in alternative energy.	Stands for a woman's right to choose. Expand access to family planning services.
Sen. Chris Dodd (www.chrisdodd.com)	Bring our troops out of Iraq and set a firm deadline tied to funding.	Ensure everyone has affordable health coverage.	Reduce cost of college students' loans. Make community college affordable to all. Every parent has access to preschool. Double the number of board-certified teachers.	Bring energy costs down for families. Call for fuel efficiency standards and break our dependency on the Middle East. Make America the world leader on climate change.	Supports a woman's right to choose.
Sen. John Edwards (www.johnedwards.com)	By leaving Iraq, America will prompt the Iraqi people, regional powers, and the entire international community to find the political solution that will end the violence and create a stable Iraq.	Make it affordable to all. Require all Americans to be insured.	Quality preschool education. Raise teacher pay. Reduce class size. Reduce cost of tuition: "College for Everyone." Simplify FAFSA.	End our dependence on foreign oil. Lead world in climate treaty that commits countries to reduce pollution.	Protecting a woman's right to choose.
Sen. Mike Gravel (www.gravel2008.us)	Immediate withdrawal of all troops within 120 days.	Universal healthcare system. Equal medical services.	Supports government funding of education from pre-K to higher education.	End energy dependence on oil. Cap carbon emissions.	Supports a woman's right to decide if and when to have children and to make the difficult decision about abortion without interference by government.
Sen. Barack Obama (www.barackobama.com)	Immediately begin withdrawal of troops. Call for a new constitutional convention in Iraq convened with the United Nations, which would not adjourn until Iraq's leaders reach a new accord on reconciliation.	Provide affordable, comprehensive and portable health coverage for all Americans. Reduce healthcare costs.	Expand early childhood education. Pay teachers more. Fund No Child Left Behind. Give more high school students access to rigorous college-level courses. Increase federal college aid.	Reduce green-house gas emissions. Develop and deploy climate-friendly energy supplies. Reduce our dependence on foreign oil. Make the U.S. a leader in the global effort to combat climate change.	Pro-choice.
Rep. Dennis Kucinich (www.kucinich.us)	Wants to bring the troops home. Only Democrat running for president who voted against authorizing the war in Iraq and against funding its continuation. Proposes a policy of Strength through Peace.	Universal, single-payer, not-for-profit healthcare system. Secure healthcare for all Americans.	Provide universal education to all Americans from pre-school through college.	Put the U.S. in the forefront of solving the global warming crisis. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	Supports a woman's right to choose.
Gov. Bill Richardson (www.richardsonforpresident.com)	Remove all troops as quickly as possible. Engage all of Iraq's neighbors in stabilization. Funds redeployment.	Allow every American to have coverage. Making prescription drugs affordable.	Provide universal access to quality pre-K programs. Eliminate No Child Left Behind. Raise teachers' salaries. Eliminate FAFSA and expand and increase access to student aid.	Provide incentives for the use of cleaner fuels. Preserve and protect our National parks. Encourages states to take part in a national recycle program with federal funding.	Promotes keeping Affirmative Action strong. Minimum wage justice for women. Pro-choice and supports abortion rights and medical privacy.

clarke courier

December

Republican

John Co
(www.cox2008)Rudy Giuliani
(www.joinrudy2008)Gov. Mike Huckabee
(www.mikehuckabee)Rep. Duncan Hunter
(www.gohunter08)Sen. John McCain
(www.johnmccain)Cong. Ron Paul
(www.ronpaul2008)Gov. Mitt Romney
(www.mittromney)Tom Tancredo
(www.teamtancredo)

FOR YOUR CAUCUSES

5

December 6, 2007

kim brooks
campus life editor

Republicans:	Iraq	Health Care	Education	Environment	Women's Rights
John Cox (www.cox2008.com)	Pull out our troops victoriously. Wants to win the war in Iraq and elsewhere.	Force an end to foreign government's subsidizing drug costs at Americans' expense.	Revoke No Child Left Behind. Wants to keep education a local and state issue.	Supports alternative fuels and domestic drilling. Regulate the problem of pollution.	Pro-life.
Rudy Giuliani (www.joinrudy2008.com)	Believes in winning the war on terror. Believes in setting a timeline for withdrawal from Iraq. Wants troops to succeed in Iraq and return home safely.	Wants to reduce the cost and improve the quality. Wants to help low-income families get insurance.	Increase school funding. Hire more teachers.	Use bio-fuels instead of foreign oil. Move towards energy independence by solar, wind, hydroelectric, and geothermal power.	Supports a ban on partial birth abortion (except when the mother's life is at stake).
Gov. Mike Huckabee (www.mikehuckabee.com)	Believes setting a timetable for withdrawal is a mistake. Focused on winning the war. Against troop withdrawal. Supports Iraq's neighbors becoming committed to stabilizing Iraq.	Serious about preventative health care. Advocates for lowering health costs. Allow Americans to have more control of their health care options. Wants to move away from employer-based to consumer-based health care.	Every child should have a quality education. Supports home-schooling. Supports public schools. Values No Child Left Behind.	Supports achieving energy independence. Wants to pursue all avenues of alt. energy (nuclear, wind, solar, hydrogen, clean coal, and biodiesel). Pull our foreign oil dependency from the Middle East.	Supports the right to life. Wants to overturn Roe v. Wade. Forbids the practice of partial birth abortion. Believes in stem cell research.
Rep. Duncan Hunter (www.gohunter08.com)	Provide troops with the tools necessary to identify, track, stop and prosecute terrorists before they have the opportunity to strike.	Freedom for the consumer to purchase their own health care choices.	Wants to strengthen the public school system. Ensure that home-schooled kids have all the same opportunities as public school kids. Believes in returning school curriculum to local and state governments.	Voted yes on passage of the Bush Administration national energy policy.	Supports Right to Life.
Sen. John McCain (www.johnmccain.com)	Supports sending in more troops. Wants to give Iraqis the capabilities to govern and secure their own country.	Bring health care costs under control. Provide access for health care for all.	Shift policy-making from bureaucrats to parents. Against nationally imposed standards and funding strings.	Limit carbon emissions. Reduce our dependence on foreign energy. Wants to see America lead the way in energy conservation.	Wants to end abortion. Wants to return the abortion issue to the individual states.
Cong. Ron Paul (www.ronpaul2008.com)	Supports bringing troops home. Wants to end funding the war. Wants us to have a strong diplomacy with other nations.	Supports making all medical expenses tax deductible. Wants to drive down the cost of medical care. Wants to remove federal regulations.	Supports giving educational control to parents. Wants to return school funding to states. Introduced the Family Education Freedom Act. Supports home-schooling.	Encourages the development of alternative and sustainable energy.	Pro-life. Wants to remove Roe v. Wade.
Gov. Mitt Romney (www.mittromney.com)	Sees an increase in our troops. Making an investment in equipment, weapons, and defense.	Make health care affordable to all Americans.	Wants to measure students' progress in school. Involve parents from the start of a child's school career.	End our dependence on foreign oil. Developing alternative sources of energy (biodiesel, ethanol, nuclear, and coal).	Pro-life (except in cases of rape, incest, and to save the life of the mother). States should determine own abortion laws.
Tom Tancredo (www.teamtancredo.com)	Up to Iraqis to ensure success. Believes in the timetable set by the President.	Drive down health care costs. Increase in the number of uninsured.	Wants to limit federal involvement. Leave education control in the hands of parents.	Voted yes on passage of the Bush Administration national energy policy.	Right to life.

December 6, 2007

ARTS ETC.

Choir sings carols for concert

stephani klein
staff writer

As the end of the semester is upon us. The signs are familiar – haggard-looking, sleep-deprived students wandering the hallways in a daze, an increase in caffeine consumption and continual longings for home.

It's easy to get caught up in the stresses of the last few weeks of school and forget about what this time of year is truly about. If you find a need to reconnect with the spirit of the season, make an effort to attend Clarke's "For a Blessed Christmas" concert.

This holiday tradition, which features the choirs, band and a guest soloist, depicts the Christmas story through a combination of musical performances and narration. This year marks the 6th annual production.

Monique Whittington, a 1989 Clarke graduate, is the guest soloist this year. Whittington is a vocalist, actress, songwriter and playwright. The engagement of a soloist comes from a joint decision made by the faculty of the music department and the Arts at Clarke Series advisory board.

David Resnick, director of the Clarke College band, believes that it is the guest soloist that makes each concert unique. "Each soloist has their own special dynamic and energy that they share with the audience," he

said.

For Collegiate Choir director Fran Vogt, the inspiration to invite Whittington came in a flash. After hearing her perform several gospel numbers at the March 2007 Musical Menus concert at Clarke, Vogt was simply blown away by her talent. "She has such a soulful approach and is a wonderful performer," he said. "We all had the same thought when we heard her sing at Musical Menus."

One of the pieces being performed at the concert is "Jesus, Oh What a

The spirit of the concert is continuous, and it serves to pull the audience in more

Wonderful Child"; it is a number that includes both choirs, the band and Whittington. Other pieces include "Gloria" by Vivaldi and "Candlelight Carol" by John Rutter.

The concert opens with the band's traditional rendition of "Sleepers, Awake!" They will also perform "Divinum Mysterium," a section of "Russian Christmas Music," and "Christmas Variants," which is based on "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."

For Vogt and the Collegiate Choir, rehearsals have been underway since the middle of October. "This is really the best time of year for the choirs," he said. "The amount and

variety of music available to us is great."

The concert is not only a draw for those within the Clarke community, but the wider Dubuque community as well. Katie Beitzel, a senior history major and member of the band, feels that this concert is different from the others throughout the year. "This concert is usually the community's favorite," she said. "They keep coming year after year, and their enthusiasm gets me really excited too."

Channeling a different flow than many other concerts, the Blessed Christmas concert doesn't encourage clapping in between numbers. "It almost moves like a Mass," Vogt said. "The spirit of the concert is continuous, and it serves to pull the audience in more."

There are two opportunities to attend this concert – Saturday, Dec. 8, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 9, at 2 p.m. General admission tickets are \$10; students can reserve a free ticket.

"The atmosphere you get is that it's more than just a concert," Vogt said. "A special quality is there that isn't present any other time of the year."

Resnick agrees with this sentiment. "I hope that the people will leave the concert inspired to spread the joyous message of Christmas with their words and deeds."

On the street

What was your worst Christmas gift experience?

mike dalsing
staff writer



Gabriel Semidey
Senior, philosophy major

"When I was 9, I got a really nice remote control car for Christmas. I went inside to my grandma's restaurant to get something to drink, and when I came back outside, I saw a truck run over my car and it was only 1 day after Christmas when this happened."

Veronica Delgado/Jennifer Flanigan
senior history majors

"Our families promised us something big that we always wanted for Christmas and on that morning there was a big box under the Christmas tree. Our eyes filled up with joy and our first thought was that inside the boxes were sets of keys for our new cars. We came to find out that we were tricked and it ended up being mini hot wheel cars." Jen got a Corvette and Veronica got a jeep.



Jamie Seidl, senior biology major

"At my grandpa and grandma's house, I always got boring presents for Christmas like socks and underwear. One year, though, I grabbed the wrong box and pulled out a woman's Christmas sweater and I was very disappointed. Later, I found out that I accidentally grabbed a gift that was for my grandma."



Media Watch

	Bill Daack business professor	Jon Peona Sophomore business major	Ariela Duran freshman pre-engineering major	Ezana Gebru junior physiology major
What's your favorite Christmas song?	"I'll be Home for Christmas"	"Rudolph, the Red Nose Reindeer"	"Jingle Bells"	"O Holy Night"
What's your favorite Christmas movie?	"Scrooge"	"Elf"	"Elf"	"Home Alone 2"
What's your favorite Christmas story?	"Little Drummer Boy"	"The Baby Jesus story"	"Three Kings"	"Frosty the Snowman"

Drama department hosts first drama day for high school students

justine ehlers
artsc. editor

On Saturday November 17, high school students of all ages gathered for the first annual Drama Day at Clarke and the chance to meet Broadway star Brooke Elliott. Many high school students were in attendance to share with Clarke's more experienced actors the art of acting. The event was hosted by Clarke's drama department providing two sessions for students to attend: auditioning for musical theatre with Elliott and stage combat.

Elliott spoke to the crowd about different techniques used when auditioning for performances. She has performed in shows ranging from "Taboo" with Rosie O'Donnell and Boy George, "Wicked" and "Pirate Queen." She said that even now with all of her experience, she enters an audition with her repertoire book hoping that she has prepared songs that will set her apart vocally, even if it isn't an original choice.

"If a song sits with you and you're on fire with it, then do it," said Elliott. "I don't care if 500 people are doing it, if you feel it, do it."

Joe Klinebriel, assistant professor of drama and speech, led the stage combat workshop. He demonstrated things such as how to make a fight



Drama department professor Joe Klinebriel and drama major Valerie Heitzman demonstrate stage combat at Clarke's first annual Drama Day.

scene look and sound realistic. Students showed great enthusiasm for learning the unique procedures used.

The event concluded with the students viewing a performance of "Waiting for the Parade" by Clarke's drama department. The students were then invited to an informal reception and conversation with the cast and crew after the performance. According to Valerie Heitzman, junior drama and speech major, this was a

great experience not only for the high school students, but the college drama students who helped host the event.

"It was a fulfilling day because we got the chance to share our knowledge of theatre with the kids and get their feedback," Valerie said. "For me, I enjoyed hearing about what some of the high schoolers wanted to do after high school and how much they loved theatre."

clarke courier

DECEMBER 6, 2007

New faces

tabitha blake
sports editor

There are some new faces in Clarke athletics this year.



Coach Zareth Gray comes to Clarke from Beville State Community College in Fayette, Ala., where she served as head coach. Gray brings plenty of experience to the women's basketball program.

Gray has coached at several different schools. She played basketball at Michigan State where she was a four-year letter winner. She also went overseas and played for a while in Germany for DJK Wuerzburg.

One of Gray's favorite things to do is to rebuild. She hopes to take Clarke from being an underdog and turn it into a national powerhouse. Her ultimate goal is to win a national championship. What she loves most about coaching is getting to see athletes accomplish what they never

Clarke student intramural lacrosse

nate lech
staff writer

First dodge ball...now lacrosse: Sports teams are coming up through the floorboards at Clarke this semester.

Through talking with a friend from Carleton College in Northfield, Minn., junior Spanish major Caitlin Hammond found out she could submit a women's lacrosse team for Clarke into the North Central Women's Lacrosse League.

For Caitlin, starting up a team was not going to be a difficult task because of one thing, passion. "Many things hold me back, but the passion and persistent efforts I have won't stop me," said Caitlin. "The school will most likely not fund the club, and therefore we have a little bit of fundraising to do and donations are welcome."

Long said that in order for lacrosse to become an intramural sport at Clarke, there would have to be enough interest to support a few teams.

"Presently, there are a several

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DECEMBER 6, 2007

SPORTS

New faces lead Clarke athletes

tabitha blake
sports editor

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One of Gray's favorite things to do is to rebuild. She hopes to take Clarke from being an underdog and turn it into a national powerhouse. Her ultimate goal is to win a national championship. What she loves most about coaching is getting to see athletes accomplish what they never

thought possible.

"I love to see the confidence build in them to where you can just see it in their eyes on a daily basis," said Gray.

This season looks to be an establishing season for the team. They want to establish a sense of pride with the expectation of championships. They also want to establish their place within the new conference.



Coach Chad Harris took over the Clarke baseball reins last year. He is originally from Hot Springs, Ark. He was a pitcher on the baseball team at North Arkansas College in Harrison, Ark., for two years, and then transferred to the University of the Ozarks in

Clarksville, Ark., where he played baseball for another two years. Before coming to Clarke, Harris was an assistant at the University of the Ozarks for five years, where he helped turn the program completely around.

What attracted Harris to Clarke is that he thinks the atmosphere is a lot like that at the University of the Ozarks. He enjoys the small campus, the great learning environment, and the opportunity to coach true student athletes.

He enjoys all aspects of coaching, especially getting to see athletes who he recruited succeed, not only in baseball, but also in school. And the most rewarding part is seeing them walk across the stage on graduation day.

"I enjoy seeing all the hard work from the recruiting to teaching in practice all come together in success," Harris said. "It's awesome having a job where you wake up and look forward to going to work."

The upcoming season looks to be shaping up nicely. If the pitching staff can hold up and the freshmen can mature quickly, the team could have a very good season.



Coach Liz Garthright

comes to Clarke from the University of Sioux Falls in South Dakota where she was a four-year starting catcher for the softball team while she was a student, and then after graduation, an assistant coach for her alma mater.

She was attracted to Clarke and its softball program because she felt very comfortable here when she visited. She also liked the indoor batting cages and the fact that the team seemed to be a group of very hard working and dedicated players.

"It's hard to explain, but everything kind of just clicked together during the interview process and I knew that Clarke was right," Garthright said.

Her favorite part of coaching is watching things come together on

the field when everything seems to be working as it should. She also enjoys building relationships with her team and watching them have fun and work together. When asked what she likes best about Clarke, she simply replied, "the girls on the softball team."

"I couldn't have asked for a better group my first year at Clarke," she added. "It is unbelievable how hard they are willing to work to achieve our goals."

And goodbye to....

In addition to the new faces, there are a few familiar faces leaving Clarke's athletic department. Cross country and track coach Michael Warta left this semester for a position at Coe College in Cedar Rapids, and men's basketball coach Jon Davison will step down after this year's season.

Both of these coaches will be missed. Coach Warta turned the track program around and made it a more prominent sport at Clarke. Coach Davison has been at Clarke for 11 successful years and recently led the men's basketball team to its first conference championship in 2005-06.

Clarke student starting a women's intramural lacrosse team

nate lech
staff writer

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"Many things hold me back, but the passion and persistent efforts I have won't stop me," said Caitlin. "The school will most likely not fund the club, and therefore we have a little bit of fundraising to do and donations are welcome!"

Clarke Director of Athletics Curt Long said that in order for lacrosse to become an intramural sport at Clarke, there would have to be enough interest to support a few teams.

"Presently, there are a several

Division I universities and a handful of small schools west of Indiana that offer lacrosse," said Long. "The Midwest Collegiate Conference does not offer it and is currently not discussing it."

Starting a sports team at Clarke



involves a lot more than coming up with an idea. Once Caitlin and the team pay off the league fees, which will accumulate to over \$520, they can start pricing their gear and plan the schedule during the second semester.

Gear will be priced from \$50 on up per person so donations and

fundraising are very important.

"Look out for the order forms for t-shirts and sweatshirts that each team member will carry around," said Caitlin.

"We will play (scrimmage) in a couple 'play days' and may play other more experienced teams such as Iowa, Iowa State, Carleton, Marquette, and St. Bens, and a bunch of others," said Caitlin.

Caitlin went on to say that the biggest challenge will be to teach the team how to play.

"It will definitely be a fun time," she said.

Those interested are still welcome to join. There is a \$10 acceptance fee that will go to equipment and league fees. Don't worry about knowing how to play, there will be no try-outs.

If you have any questions, contact Caitlin Hammond at caitlin.hammond@clarke.edu.

And the new mascot is.....

sarah neece
staff writer

After 30 years, Clarke College has officially changed its mascot to...Well, to find out you must be in the Kehl Center Tuesday, December 11 at 6:30 p.m. Sorry.

Even though The student athletic organization CHAMPS and the board of trustees have decided upon the new mascot and icon after long deliberation, according to CHAMPS president Erin DiGangi, the committee and board have agreed to keep the new logo under wraps until the big night.

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December 6, 2007

EXTRAS

Candid Christmas

Faculty & staff past and present



Lynne Niznik, chair and associate professor of history and political science, now and in earlier days.



Andrea Bixler, assistant professor of biology, now and at age 1.



Carrie Breitbach, mail station coordinator, now and at age 9 (far left).



Paulette Skiba, BVM, associate professor of religious studies, now and at age 6.



clarke courier

Atrium Christmas Magic

photos by matt adams



This year the Clarke art department decorated the Atrium for Christmas. According to art professor Doug Schlesier, the theme was peace. Colors were white and red, and the influence of paper is reflected in the Madonna and Child "cut-out" sculpture designed by art professor Carmelle Zserdin to resemble a Christmas card cut-out. The origami

tree (top photo) features cranes, an Asian symbol of peace. Art students made the origami led by art major Brian Menke who folded more than 160 pieces. New art faculty member Bryan Zygmunt rode a cherry picker to hang the banners which are modeled on a design in Crate and Barrel's Chicago store which was created by a Clarke art alum.

Traditions, continued from page 1

Clarke also celebrated Christmas in other ways, like music. A December 1952 Courier issue included the headline "CLKK (Clarke's radio station) will go all out to help put 'Clarkites' in the Christmastime mood with special holiday broadcasting." While Clarke no longer has a radio station, we do still celebrate the holiday season with music events. This year, 1989 Clarke graduate Monique Whittington will perform a Christmas concert, "For A Blessed Christmas," in the Sacred

Heart Chapel December 8 and 9.

While Clarke has discontinued many past Christmas traditions, there are still opportunities every year for students to get in the holiday spirit.

"We still do some very good things here on campus," said Amy Golm, BVM. "For a Blessed Christmas' and the dinner do give us good opportunities to celebrate."

February 8, 2008

campus life

Students strike a bargain in poverty simulation

page 2

arts etc.



Side by side by a successful production of Sondheim

page 5

sports



Congratulations to these Clarke athletes

page 7

weather



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